

telling point when you illustrate that by joining with the large corporate farmers in maintaining a low wage stability the smaller farmers are in fact working against their own interest.

I think the statement you made provides a basis for an outline of the factors that ought to be considered in weighing this legislation and examining it for possible changes or improvement.

I would like to ask, with respect to agricultural workers and the organization of agricultural workers, if there is substantial evidence now available to us in various parts of the country that would demonstrate the effect over a period of time? We know what has been happening in California; there has been a great deal of publicity with respect to that.

Is the recent California experience unique in the attempts of organized labor to organize labor, or is this happening in other parts of the country?

Mr. MEANY. We have been in other parts of the country but I would say that California is unique in the sense that it is the most successful in setting up. We met tremendous resistance in Louisiana and Texas to our efforts which indicate the need for establishing among these workers the legal right that other workers have both in Texas and in Louisiana.

In California, of course, as I say, we have concentrated there and we have had some success there.

Mr. FORD. Is it correct that most of the employers that are involved in the organization activities or involved with the employees that you are attempting to organize in California are themselves organized into an association or associations whereby they control by agreement with each other the level of wages, the price of their products, and all of the other aspects?

Mr. MEANY. I could not answer that. I don't know just how they are organized.

Mr. FORD. Well, is it common, for example—

Mr. MEANY. My director of organization here maybe could answer that, Mr. Kircher.

Mr. KIRCHER. The employers are, in fact, organized, and very well organized. I can't as a matter of fact testify with respect to how much they use the organization to restrain some of the situations that you mentioned.

I don't know this as a matter of fact but we certainly have many indications that cause us to feel that this is part of their program.

Mr. FORD. Do these organizations enter into any formal agreements in which the farmers agree on a set price for certain classifications of labor such as pickers and so on?

Mr. KIRCHER. I don't know.

Mr. MEANY. I could not tell you that.

Of course, there is one factor that I mentioned before that ties them together and that is they all get their money from the same till; I mean, they are financing what they need to operate. This whole California structure runs right back to the banks and has for many years.

Mr. FORD. I, in closing, would just like to take issue slightly with one observation that you make with respect to the small farmer. I think you let him off too easily when you suggest that he is not directly responsible or directly involved in the problem of the unorganized